

Existing law authorizes the State Mineral and Energy Board ("board") to lease for the development and production of minerals, oil, and gas, any lands belonging to the state, or the title to which is in the public, including road beds, water bottoms, vacant state lands, and lands adjudicated to the state at tax sale.

New law adds the authority to lease for the development and production of "alternative energy sources".

New law authorizes the board, in consultation with the Dept. of Transportation and Development, to adopt rules and regulations in accordance with the APA.

New law defines "alternative energy sources" as energy sources other than oil, gas, and other liquid, solid or gaseous minerals. It will include, but not limited to, wind energy, geothermal energy, solar energy and hydrokinetic energy. It does not include the cultivation or harvesting of biomass fuels or the use of state land or water bottoms for facilities which utilize biomass fuel to produce energy.

New law further provides that no lease shall be granted for hydrokinetic energy development that is inconsistent with the terms of a permit, license, exemption, or other authorization issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Effective August 15, 2010.

(Amends R.S. 30:124)